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By Vic Walter  
And Krista  
Kjellman

Dec 5, 2006 3:38pm

# Can You Hear Me Now?

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Cell phone users, beware. The FBI can listen to everything you say, even when the cell phone is turned off. A recent court ruling in a case against the Genovese crime family revealed that the FBI has the ability from a remote location to activate a cell phone and turn its microphone into a listening device that transmits to an FBI listening post, a method known as a "roving bug." Experts say the only way to defeat it is to remove the cell phone battery. "The FBI can access cell phones and modify them remotely without ever having to physically handle them," James Atkinson, a counterintelligence security consultant, told ABC News. "Any recently manufactured cell phone has a built-in tracking device, which can allow eavesdroppers to pinpoint someone's location to within just a few feet," he added. THE BLOTTER RECOMMENDS Federal Source to ABC News: We Know Who You're Calling FBI Secret Probes: 3,501 Targets in the U.S. Click Here to Check Out the Latest Brian Ross Investigates Webcast on CIA Secret Prisons According to the recent court ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Lewis Kaplan, "The device functioned whether the phone was powered on or off, intercepting conversations within its range wherever it happened to be." The court ruling denied motions by 10 defendants to suppress the conversations obtained by "roving bugs" on the phones of John Ardito, a high-ranking member of the family, and Peter Peluso, an attorney and close associate of Ardito, who later cooperated with the government. The "roving bugs" were approved by a judge after the more conventional bugs planted at specified locations were

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discovered by members of the crime family, who then started to conduct their

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accomplish than a stationary one, this does not mean that it implicated new or

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## USER COMMENTS

"Cell phone users, beware. The FBI can listen to everything you say, even when the cell phone is turned off."  
This is the FBI kind of personal surveillance, applying the FBI's listening into everybody's cell phone calls. Only in the last sentence do you let the reader know that the FBI "maintains" it strictly observes the law and only engages in surveillance after obtaining a warrant from a judge (requiring evidence of probable cause that a crime has been committed and thus is not so committed to). Why not just say "The FBI can listen to everything you say when it comes in your house and search all your personal affairs!"  
<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/02/22/surgeon-gave-teen-daughter-breast-implants/>

POSTED BY: CHASE | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 4:05 PM 4:05 PM  
<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/02/seinfeld-star-daniel-von-bargen-hospitalized-after-suicide-attempt/>

What a fantastic article. I do. Actually, I've heard about this before, from people I know who work for different federal agencies who've said when they do an investigation they always leave their phone at home because someone might be listening. I thought it was just talk, but here's the proof.  
The potential for eavesdropping. When a band of geeks in a basement decide to do a project, the potential for eavesdropping could be incalculable. Why would not the FBI be able to do this? The potential for eavesdropping involves somewhere and dire pleas of national security. In the process, nothing  
<http://www.rd.com/slideshows/13-things-a-movie-theater-employed-woman-tell-you/> (Reader's Digest)  
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It's a Boy! Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck Welcome Third Child  
<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/entertainment/2012/02/its-a-boy-jennifer-garner-and-ben-affleck-welcome-third-child/>

POSTED BY: CORBETT | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 4:17 PM 4:17 PM  
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POSTED BY: JIMMY | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 4:19 PM 4:19 PM  
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POSTED BY: GERALD | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 4:32 PM 4:32 PM  
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POSTED BY: TONY | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 4:35 PM 4:35 PM  
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POSTED BY: JOSHDESTARDI | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 4:47 PM 4:47 PM

This is insane that this judge gave the government this kind of blank power to surveil. What a nut job.

POSTED BY: MARY | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 5:12 PM 5:12 PM

Having worked for the government in my past, this is just one more thing that reminds me of the fact that the general public has really no idea what-so-ever of how big our government is and what it is capable of. I think America needs to wake up and realize that our government is so big and so deep into things that it denies that it would shock us all. Kinda sounds like that movie V for Vendetta, doesn't it? So ask yourselves, are we really as free as you think we are?

POSTED BY: TODD | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 5:14 PM 5:14 PM

What about ONSTAR? I guess the FBI can listen to every conversation while we are driving in our cars, doing business transactions or making out with our girlfriends?

POSTED BY: JOHN DOE | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 5:26 PM 5:26 PM

I believe that we as Americans must do everything within our power to protect each other using any and all methods available. Of course I am directing this at terrorists not randomly abusing the intent of the law. I only hope the government doesn't abuse this power as they have in the past.

POSTED BY: DAVID SHAPIRO | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 5:27 PM 5:27 PM

This ia a crock. ABC news should do more checking before publishing a story!

POSTED BY: NONEYA | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 5:40 PM 5:40 PM

Warrants? We don't need no stinking warrants.

POSTED BY: AGENT SMITH | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 5:43 PM 5:43 PM

That was a STOOOOPID vote. According to the article the FBI gained access through a judge to use this procedure. They could and can do that by bugging a home or office. No difference as long as they got the courts approval. Orwellian? Doubt it since, we as individuals open our lives to "Big Brother" or scum of the earth voluntarily by subscribing to cell phones and internet. Dont get a cell or access to the net!

POSTED BY: PSC57 | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 5:59 PM 5:59 PM

I've read 1984 three times. Big Brother IS upon us. I recommend the book highly.

POSTED BY: BRYAN | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 6:34 PM 6:34 PM

How far away does the listening post have to be? I don't think they can with a encrypted satellite phone. Can you give me details? I need the info for a future illegal wire tap, right to privacy court case. Thanks Lucy.

POSTED BY: LUCY | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 6:37 PM 6:37 PM

I think that it is so cool but if you do that then I would hope that if you heard something personal then you wouldn't tell everyone! I would hate to bye a phone and then have the whole world find out something personal!!! It will be able to find out people that might try to attcak our nation! I like it as long as nothing is repeted!!

POSTED BY: CHRISTINA | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 7:09 PM 7:09 PM

No, i dont' think it's fair.  
Everyone has personal lives that don't want to be invaded.  
I understand if the government is trying to keep us safe, but this has gone too far.

POSTED BY: CHRYS | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 7:09 PM 7:09 PM

No, but what I would like to know is why did the FBI, CIA need the blessings of congress to wiretap when they could just rove the suspected terrorist? Lucy

POSTED BY: LUCY | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 7:12 PM 7:12 PM

If you're not doing anything wrong, then you should have no worries about being bugged!

POSTED BY: JULIE | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 7:17 PM 7:17 PM

Cell phones are electronic loudspeakers. Acitve calls have allways been intercepted. No one had a problem some years ago when the Israely government killed a terrorist by blowing up his cell phone. Since these phones are transmitters it is easy to defeat the tracking feature. Simply intercept the transmitted signal either by defeating the antennae or putting the unit in a metal box.

POSTED BY: THOMAS | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 7:29 PM 7:29 PM

I commend and applaud the FBI for following the laws of the United States of America by obtaining court orders and submitting to ongoing judicial scrutiny for all electronic surveillance it conducts. Maybee the White House, the NSA, and CIA will also start following the laws of the United States of America. Maybee not. The difference between the (White House, NSA, CIA)and the FBI is "THE LAW". The FBI follows it but the others arrogantly & flagrantly desecrate & destroy it.

POSTED BY: TODD RESTELLI | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 8:17 PM 8:17 PM

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wow....very scary...someone needs to do something about this!

POSTED BY: DIMEBAG | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 8:18 PM 8:18 PM

I approve of cell phone eavesdropping on the Genovese crime family. There has to be some balance or recourse for the abuse that will happen, though. Perhaps a fine for illegal use, or the ability to civilly sue the agents who deploy it, their supervisor, department, and judge who approves it. Nothing restrains a person's behavior like having money removed from their wallet.  
Ed

POSTED BY: ED LULOFS | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 8:37 PM 8:37 PM

this sounds like a lot of crap to me

POSTED BY: MATT ZORRO | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 8:40 PM 8:40 PM

This is way toooooo much. Enough spying on us...you can't have privacy in your own bedroom. The government needs to stop it.

POSTED BY: SAMI | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 8:43 PM 8:43 PM

Mr. Ross: The ability to use televisions has been extant for more than ten years here in Texas, and it is used indiscriminately, notwithstanding the protests of the FBI. In addition, these surveillance devices continue to be combined and used as weapons like in the movie Minority Report. Please help investigate and reveal. Be advised, you will become a target of these pain giving body interfering RF waves that are used as an RDIF system on our homes and our very living spaces even with protests to all in authority daily. Complaints do not work. The state/locals will not act against another unit of drug enforcement or other unit. The meters to prove this electronic assault are expensive, and the average person unaware of it anyway. Illness is being caused and disabled people are being harmed 100 percent of the time and the authority unable or unwilling to stop it. George Orwell didn't know the half of it.

POSTED BY: P.PARENT | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 9:37 PM 9:37 PM

"The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously. Any sound that Winston made, above the level of a very low whisper, would be picked up by it; moreover, so long as he remained within the field of vision which the metal plaque commanded, he could be seen as well as heard. There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment. How often, or on what system, the Thought Police plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But at any rate they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to. You had to live – did live, from habit that became instinct – in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and except in darkness, every movement scrutinised."

George Orwell, 1984

"Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness."

George Washington, Circular to the States, May 9, 1753

It's not "You have nothing to fear unless you're doing something wrong".

It's "You have nothing to fear unless the government is doing something wrong."

SearingTruth

POSTED BY: SEARINGTRUTH | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 10:18 PM 10:18 PM

Is this part of The Patriot Act Package?

POSTED BY: BOB KING NEVERLAND III | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 10:29 PM 10:29 PM

Well...it's not surprising that our government would take advantage of technology to spy on it's citizens; given the free reign that the judicial branch has given our "prezodent" to execute warrantless wiretapping on "people of interest". It's just another tool to undermine the freedom they say they're trying to protect. It used to be freedom from oppression, to pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; but now it seems more and more like it's the freedom to control the every movement of it's citizens. Are we free anymore?

With this new development, anyone with a cellphone has to wonder if the government is listening to them and judging the life they live.

I see us descending into a world where every word and thought is broadcast to those in power, robbing us of the freedoms that our constitution was supposed to guarantee. A sad day indeed.

POSTED BY: DAVID | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 10:50 PM 10:50 PM

I can't believe my eyes ..... there are people in this blog who APPROVE of these kinds of intrusions by the government !!!! Kudos to all who invent countermeasures to thwart the government !!!!

POSTED BY: NLIGHTENEDONE | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 10:56 PM 10:56 PM

I feel this whole thing is wrong and shouldn't be allowed to be done to anyone. It is an dishonor to be an American in this world today. Where will this world be in life in a few years. Nothing is yours, not even your own words and thoughts.

POSTED BY: MELISSA | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 11:16 PM 11:16 PM

Would people stop blaming the judge? I have to think, if I were in his shoes, I'd do the same thing. It'd spare me the

countless hours of hearing Bush stumble through speeches about "inherent powers" and so on. Besides, a decision like this always opens up the door to appeals.

On the other hand, if enough of us think this is a bad idea (I certainly do), let's write our Representatives and ask them to impeach this rogue. After all, judges are the officials most often and most successfully impeached by Congress.

POSTED BY: ANDREW ELGERT | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 11:29 PM 11:29 PM

What if... you can also be heard, or seen, through your TV or monitor via cable, internet or even AC power...?

Well... it's been possible for years!

Why be so paranoid? All you do is waste your life away in front of the TV anyway!

POSTED BY: TINKTHANK | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 11:36 PM 11:36 PM

the problem i see are these phones are out in the public domain.to get a warrant to bug someone's office because you have evidence of criminal activity there ,is one thing.to have a bug that can be brought into unsuspecting third party homes is another

POSTED BY: JAMES | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 11:46 PM 11:46 PM

I don't agree with it unless it is used in the same way as wiretaps. As in, it requires a court order to allow this "celltap".

POSTED BY: ABUSEPOTENTIAL | DECEMBER 5, 2006, 11:49 PM 11:49 PM

I wonder about the implications worldwide? Is it possible for the CIA to turn on the microphone of the Canadian Prime Minister's cell phone? I mean they all use the same satellites right? And are there any other countries that have this capability?

POSTED BY: PETER GIESBRECHT | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 12:02 AM 12:02 AM

I would be more concerned with what the Angels hear you say than the FBI. The Government can kill your flesh but after that they can do nothing more. Oh, does your cell phone have a camera?

POSTED BY: ROBERT | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 12:42 AM 12:42 AM

"Holy cow Batman, they know who you are"

POSTED BY: RICHARD | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 1:12 AM 1:12 AM

I THINK THIS IS CRAZY WE HAVE NO PRIVACY I THINK THAT THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO INVAD ON ANYBODY  
PRIVACY LIKE THAT WHAT GOES ON IN PEOPLE HOMES IS NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS

POSTED BY: SHAMIRRA | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 1:17 AM 1:17 AM

Assuming that the article is correct about the FBI being able to listen in on \_any\_ recent cellphone, then I would say that the real story here is why manufacturers are complicit with this sort of spying.

Seriously – when the government is unable to pass laws directly enabling them to do something, they turn to big business and offer incentives (or extortion) in return for favors.

For example, look at PayPal. They have constantly lived under the fear of being regulated as a bank. So far, they haven't been. Notice that they also don't allow people to sell anything "morally objectionable" – even though the items in question may be perfectly legal. Why is that? Because the government essentially extorts companies like this – in PayPal's case, do things the government's way, or else get treated like a bank – and watch your business model dissolve.

This sort of thing happens all the time, and this is the real crime. Corporations should stand up for consumers and freedom. But they don't, and the government takes advantage of that.

Government manipulation of big corporations is a serious back-door to circumventing the constitution.

POSTED BY: MIKE MILLS | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 1:41 AM 1:41 AM

Where are we safe from government intrusion? Cell phones are pervasive – now so is the government's ear. Maybe worse, so is the ear of anyone else with this technical capability. Think about that – criminals monitoring victims, terrorists spying on law enforcement, political opponents doing what Nixon did. No checks and no balances and you never even know it's happening. Ask yourself: Is this the country our Founding Fathers envisioned...

POSTED BY: CLAY HOLTZMAN | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 1:51 AM 1:51 AM

THIS IS WONDERFULL!

The future is finally here, nobody needs to feel insecure anymore. Crimes can be prevented before they are executed. Big brother can take care of us all, no terrorist can ever manage without cell phone. Only thing to be afraid of is that big brother will go crazy. But since everyone knows that US government and secret services can always be trusted, we have no worries at all.

Cheers from Finland

ps. no, I'm not communist, although probably of course listed as something like that by those very sophisticated US systems saying "lives in Europe, criticizes US government -> communist or worse".

POSTED BY: MAKE | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 4:26 AM 4:26 AM

They are using the "terrorist" as a reason to pass any law, and we are indeed a communist state, or getting very close to it. Pretty soon the SS will come busting down your door, hell, they are doing this already, they are just called the "police" and not "SS".

POSTED BY: ZMAN | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 4:48 AM 4:48 AM

We should be more concerned about al-Quaida and their terrorist allies, then about so-called Big Brother FBI. I for one have nothing to hide, and I wish more of our citizens would stand up and stop these media investigations from revealing all our national secrets to the enemy.

POSTED BY: MORT | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 7:03 AM 7:03 AM

With all the laws being passed in this country it's no wonder things like this happen. Joe Citizen wants the government to look out for him, his kids, his food, his health, his car. He doesn't want to have to think for himself, he doesn't want to have to take care of his own, not when we can pass laws to take care of it for him. Well Joe, looks like you're getting just what you wanted!

POSTED BY: SUSAN | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 9:10 AM 9:10 AM

The article may be about the FBI's use, but, the technology is available regardless. A company or large group with significant resources or a good hacker can probably do this as well. Companies should be worried about potential corporate espionage using this tactic.

POSTED BY: JOHN | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 9:57 AM 9:57 AM

Gosh, I forget to charge the cell phone half the time. Does that mean that once the battery is out of juice any potential intrusion is thwarted?

POSTED BY: STEVE | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 10:00 AM 10:00 AM

Welcome to America. Nothing new here as this is par for the course for government. The Patriot Act is nothing more than a blank check.  
The same law enforcement and federal agents who shoot 88 year old black women and gun down teenagers with Playstation remotes in their hands or bachelors at a party are the same people who are asking you to trust them.  
There is a reason they don't want you to have assault weapons or anything capable of defeating them. There is a reason your checks are direct deposited, you internet, phone, and cable are digital and your cell phones are satellite. Every car you buy now can be tracked because they already come with tracking devices and I am not talking about ON-Star. Cell phone tracking is nothing new. Neither is following your digital fingerprint.  
Big Brother has been at this a long time and the guise has always been 'crime', 'communism', and now 'terrorism'. The tools of the trade have only changed and cell phones are just one tool.  
Si vis pacem, para bellum.

POSTED BY: NAPOLEAN | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 10:39 AM 10:39 AM

This is crazy. I wonder if I can take my new phone back to Verizon and tell them that I want out of the contract because of this and that it was never disclosed to me?  
This is total BS.

POSTED BY: DMAN | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 10:55 AM 10:55 AM

While everyone here is speculating whether this be a good or bad thing, try actually living through this. I know on a very personal level about invasion of privacy. I and my family have been victims of this very thing. For several months now I've had my phone conversations, emails and even conversations in my own home monitored. And why one might ask? Because of a personal issue within my own family and the family member who has been revealed for something that they did many years ago happens to be employed by a government entity. It's an abuse of power to say the very least and it has absolutely nothing to do with "terrorism." The problem is proving this abuse, for what they say on the web about myself or my family is not word for word verbatim. Just enough to let me know that I'm being watched. Though I'm not doing anything wrong in my life, I find it very distressing to know that someone out there is listening to my every word. Hell, they'll probably even get a copy of this. Yet now I'm at the point that I don't really care what they hear or see because despite the laws that have been passed through congress, the bottom line is this is still illegal as all get out when it has nothing to do with actual terrorism.  
This is just another example why the government has no right to monitor American citizens and you never know when it could be used for a personal vendetta, such as the case as with myself.  
Orwell's vision is most definitely here.....

POSTED BY: LINDA | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 11:12 AM 11:12 AM

Anyone who believes that the FBI or any government agency always follows the "rules" need only to look at their circumvention of the FISA courts. Power corrupts, period. I'd rather they not have a loaded gun in the office, because over time, there's a good chance he'll use it on me.  
Those who give up liberty for security deserve neither, they are cowards.

POSTED BY: FMAN | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 11:22 AM 11:22 AM

you all seem suprised amerika is a survilence police state....the bell curve finally bites you from behind, like iraq, or the economy, or the housing \$ collapse. youve elected fools with whiz bang policy , and now you wonder

how it happened? relax proles , its only meant to intimidate dissidents anyway, and, they know most of you are paycheck johnny with a beer and a remote.  
they know you dont care as long as gas is cheap and the trailer mortgage is paid....  
we need to elect a president with a better god, bushes god isnt blessing america much these days.  
the only good thing about the police state is , is that when things swing toward sanity again, it should be easy to round up all those who nearly bankrupted america thru greed.....

POSTED BY: ANTIBARBY | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 12:13 PM 12:13 PM

The implication for me is not whether the FBI follows the letter of the law in it's own use of this technology but rather who else is the technology available to and will they be as scrupulously judicious in their use of it as the FBI apparently is?

POSTED BY: TOM F BALES | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 1:55 PM 1:55 PM

dont agry with it... its not wright..

POSTED BY: DREW | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 2:09 PM 2:09 PM

LOL @ everyone who assumes this isn't done legally. It says so in black and white right in front of your faces, yet you still whine about your rights being violated. Didn't these people notice that this was done with a judge's approval in a criminal investigation involving organized crime?? And for those of us in federal law enforcement, it's sad that these people will never understand just how difficult it is to get a T3 order sometimes.... Sad.

POSTED BY: BUBBA | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 5:04 PM 5:04 PM

Ok, so they are good and getting better but why can't they come up with a device to tell which of the roadside bombs in Iraq are set to be exploded when called by a cell phone or could they just dial all the numbers assigned to Iraq very quickly and set all the bombs off and do that every hour or so until all the builders are killed. better use of the FBI money in my opinion.

POSTED BY: J.F. PEPPER | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 7:20 PM 7:20 PM

This is not at all the same as searching someone's house. When the FBI knocks on your door and searches your house you know exactly what's going on and they obviously can't do it without a warrant. But in this case anyone within the FBI can just spy on you, no one has to know. Obviously this system is extremely vulnerable for abuse.

POSTED BY: E.T. ABDELHADI | DECEMBER 6, 2006, 9:31 PM 9:31 PM

Yea..Dang those news people. Dang them all to heck! Y'all, if our media can find out this info, so can the media from across the 'pond'. Starting to remind me of that old saying of the messenger/barer of bad news. Does anyone else remember that saying?

POSTED BY: CAROL | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 12:11 AM 12:11 AM

Unfortunately, but true to uniform, the one Law Enforcement Officer who shows up here calls us whiners and demonstrates first class the line they themselves have drawn between 'Us and them'. Pretty typical LEO mentality. Whose whining? Us or you? Like I used to say in the military, you put on the uniform, quit complaining about it and serve. The potential for abuse and misuse of power is what is at stake here. In this instance, a judge signed off in a "criminal investigation of organized crime". So what, right? Good that they put away scum. But the erosion of true freedoms, not civil liberties but real freedoms, like the right to bear arms or a right to privacy always starts innocently and under another guise. Dont believe me? Look at the McCarthy era. Look at America today. Good luck Bubba. I am sure when the time comes you will be the right 'tool' for the job.

POSTED BY: BONAPARTE | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 1:10 AM 1:10 AM

What i'm really worried about is when a huge pile of computer nerds sit down and find a way to listen in to our conversations...

POSTED BY: NICHOLAS | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 1:14 AM 1:14 AM

You people are all having delusions of grandeur if you think the "government" wants to listen to you talk on the phone. This program, if it really exists, is meant for serious Federal crimes to which dozens of agents are assigned to and which are meant to either put dangerous criminals in jail or to capture terrorists. The "government" (which by the way is made up of people who also speak on cellphones) has no interest or time or personnel to listen to you talking to anyone. Get over yourselves.

POSTED BY: JO MAMA | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 4:00 AM 4:00 AM

Nothing new really, the alphabet agencies have been doing this kind of thing for decades in one form or another – been there done that. What I'd like to see is the blog author provide the source url, if you are going to quote something put the reference in there so the context can be checked – that is a standard.  
Rustler

POSTED BY: RUSTLER | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 6:54 AM 6:54 AM

Vic and Krista. Doin' the high level reportin'. Did you guys get your credentials from Chuck E. Cheese University? Nice job of inflammatory reporting. What ever happend to objective reporting? Does this concept even exist at ABC? I'll bet your editors used to work for fine and upstanding print media like, The National Enquirer, The Star or perhaps The Sun. I think this is a great tool! No more dangerous or misusable (is that a word) than bugs and other listening devices. 1984? Indeed. Get a life.

POSTED BY: TIM | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 7:41 AM 7:41 AM

I suspect that turning the cell phone off and wrapping it in aluminum foil will defeat this new "feature". Radio waves don't go through aluminum foil very well.

POSTED BY: NICK | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 9:08 AM 9:08 AM

While this story's primary value is to sensationalize non-proprietary facts of modern life rather than to crack some super secret, most of the bloggers responding need to pull their heads out of the sand and read. We want complete priveledge and convenience and safety with no personal cost. You want to use plastic instead of cash – that identifies you, tracks you and profiles you. You buy clothes and items from Walmart which have RFID chips imbedded – allows the same as your plastic. You want a TIVO box in you living room to record shows or movies for your convenience but do you know what it provides to the service? Don't panic, just become aware of the trappings of modern life in a technologically driven World!

POSTED BY: GUMBOMAN | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 9:30 AM 9:30 AM

If you people think that this entire cell phone thing is bad, you don't even know the half of it!!! The US government is doing things far worse to impede your personal freedom than listening to your cell phone. It's dispicable and the people need to take the power back. We need another American Revolution, this time not against the Brittish, but against our OWN GOVERNMENT! POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!!

POSTED BY: CHRIS | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 10:01 AM 10:01 AM

I have no problem with it. Little stuff like this is nothing compared to the sacrifice our service men and women are making to keep this country safe. i don't consider myself a radical nor do i have any affiliation with the government. i'm a normal working man who appreciates his privacy but if this helps keep me safe, so be it. i'm not crazy about someone listening in on me but guess what...it ain't gonna kill me. PEOPLE...LIGHTEN UP!! this wouldn't be the end of the world, and (commenter Josh on 12/5 will love this) i'm not doing anything that i have to worry about. with the state of the world we have now there are a LOT of bigger issues to worry about.

POSTED BY: PAPPY | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 11:12 AM 11:12 AM

As a native New Yorker, one who was completely shaken up after 9/11, I COMPLETELY disagree with this ruling. I understand the need for law enforcement to take surveillance to another level in order to intercept terrorist communication, or the communication of criminals who are terrorizing our neighborhoods, but there has to be a line they can not cross. Being able to turn my cell phone into a microphone even when it's off is crossing that line! I'm beginning to wonder if the conspiracy theories that warn about how our government will begin to control our every move and be able to see everything are actually true.

POSTED BY: COREY | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 12:02 PM 12:02 PM

They can only tap your phone if they go through a due process which means they would have had the right to bug you by other means. This does not give the FBI the go ahead to listen to just anyone's conversation. Assuming they stay within the realm of the law.

POSTED BY: JOSE | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 1:08 PM 1:08 PM

The president has already said the government doesn't need a warrant to tap our phones. So the fact that the FBI says it will continue to follow "the law" just means they will tap whoever they want. "Thanks to the media, now the bad guys know...." and "If you've done nothing wrong, you have nothing to fear...." are statements only a sheep would make. Soon there will no longer be a need for warrants, since we will soon no longer have any civil rights. When the day comes that the government wants to put cameras in all of our homes "for our own protection", will you simply roll over and say, "Oh, OK"?

POSTED BY: BOBNOXIOUS | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 1:51 PM 1:51 PM

...and anyone who is stupid enough to believe that the FBI or any government agency actually pays the slightest attention to the law (which they are charged with upholding!) deserves what they get – namely, spied on. Where is the independent oversight? Where is the check and balance? Anytime your privacy is invaded – especially if you are unaware of it – you are directly affected, and Big Brother wins again. It's people like pappy, above, who are the real problem: "just role over and take it" cause the govt know best...tell me this pappy...there are laws on the books in most states regarding sexual practices defined as "illegal". By your logic, since you have nothing to hide, then you won't mind having a policeman stationed in your bedroom just to make sure? Or do you suddenly "get" why it's called "PRIVACY"?



POSTED BY: NO WAY OUT | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 2:54 PM 2:54 PM

I'm all for it. Maybe it will also result in people not using their cell phones so much.

POSTED BY: GUS | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 2:56 PM 2:56 PM

They could easily do the same thing with your telephone – listen in on the telephone's microphone, or even easier to use would be the microphone on a speakerphone which is found in almost every office. However listening in within people's homes or businesses is very serious business which MUST be over-seen by Congress.

However of course the Republican-lead Congress has had minimal over-sight over the electronic eavesdropping activities of the intelligence agencies, which may have encouraged the development of some of these more invasive listening techniques. I wonder if we will see electronic counter-measures, for example a device that you can attach to your cell phone to notify you of unusual radio waves etc.

POSTED BY: CHRIS BAKER | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 3:45 PM 3:45 PM

Lots of reasons for and against this cellphone "feature" but remember that rights and liberties are taken incrementally and slowly ... look at 1930's Germany. The Nazis got friends and family to be the "wiretaps", now the cellphone has assumed the role and we pay for the wiretap in the cost of the cellphone.

I'd like to know who "encouraged" and financially supported the development of this "feature".

While I'd like to feel safe from terrorists and criminals, and believe that wiretaps are a good move toward that end I don't like the idea that a "bug", which normally must be put in place has been built in to my phone.

It's too easy for this "feature" to be abused by the government and anyone that understands electronics knows that it will be cracked and hacked, exposing us to more malicious and criminal activity than before.

I guess I'm not really surprised by this, every major civilization before us fell after about 200 years, and we are past due.

The fall always began with the breakdown of morality and overcontrol by the government. Research the history.

Those who cannot remember the sins of the past are condemned to repeat them.

POSTED BY: GARY | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 7:27 PM 7:27 PM

Everybody, I really don't have a problem with this. What's the big deal if they know what I'm saying. I have nothing to hide. Besides, if you've got a problem with it, just take out your cell phone's battery. Forget about aluminum foil. The only thing that worries me is that this turning into both of the Orwell books "1984" and "Animal Farm." You all know what happens in "1984," but some of you might not have read "Animal Farm," so I'll tell you. Basically, it's based on the Soviet Union. The leaders are pigs and they slowly change the rules until the animal "utopia" becomes a slave farm. All rights are taken away and the leaders are greedy and turn into the humans they had revolted against. That's what I'm worried about. Our leaders will turn into the one thing we fought against in the first place, in the American Revolution. You know what they use to persuade the animals into going along with it? "Surely, comrades, you don't want Mr. Jones [the human who had previously run the farm] back?" You know what my response is to that? "Surely, Americans, you don't want the tyranny [British]back?"

POSTED BY: ALLEN I. | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 7:49 PM 7:49 PM

The simple fact is that not everyone is a criminal! For the most part, a warrant has be had before doing anything against a suspect. You must have probable cause. I'm only a teenager and I don't want the FBI listening to my private cell phone calls. Why not have a warrant in order to be able to listen in on a cell phone? Are they going to watch us on a t.v. screen and see what we are watching at home and bust in our homes and tell us we can't watch something? I think not! This violates people's, who do nothing wrong, rights. Now just because we don't need a warrant to tap our phones doesn't mean that I or anyone for that matter wants the FBI to listen to our private business. This only makes it seem like, to me anyway, that they could tap anyone's cell phone and just listen for their own pleasure and because they can. They don't even have to have a reason.

POSTED BY: ENGLISH LUKASZEWICZ | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 8:34 PM 8:34 PM

I knew my battery was draining faster than normal when I wasn't using it...I've got to flush some things down the toilet.

POSTED BY: SEAN D | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 9:33 PM 9:33 PM

The only ones worried about this are the terroist and the liberals in this country that are anti-America to begin with.

POSTED BY: SL | DECEMBER 7, 2006, 10:01 PM 10:01 PM

To think of all the people who died for freedom, and now we have random microphones everywhere. Walking on eggshells all the time is not a life worth living.

POSTED BY: ANCHORITE | DECEMBER 8, 2006, 2:06 AM 2:06 AM

@Gus:

What? This has nothing to do with when or if people choose to use their cell phones; it has to do whether some government agency has the right to use those privately owned cell phones for their own purposes (altho it would be nice if people chose to use them MUCH less often, I agree with that) without the legal cell phone owner's knowledge and consent.

It is the equivalent of placing a microphone in your private dwelling, office, car, etc without a warrant; you're just supposed to trust (I suppose) that "they" are not listening unless authorized (and as you might recall, the government body (FISA) charged with issuing warrants for wiretapping and other forms of surveillance basically exists only as a rubber-stamp so that existing laws are "complied with". That body has \*never\* denied any application – this fact came to

light with the recent scandal of white-house originated government listening to private electronic communications without even "applying" to go thru that august bureaucracy on the theory that national security trumped any possible private interest...)  
So much for your legal protection for unwarranted search and seizure of private property!!!

**POSTED BY: HUH?? | DECEMBER 8, 2006, 12:22 PM 12:22 PM**

Rioight on J.F. Pepper...we should be spending our Tax dollars on tech that can save lifes instead of trespassing on liberties...How about an army of bomb sniffing dogs, have them run down the road or robot go carts?  
Yes this needs a judges approval....but with domestic spying going on, does that need judges approval as well.....???

**POSTED BY: AARON C | DECEMBER 8, 2006, 12:45 PM 12:45 PM**

This is America.  
We are either a country of laws or we are not. It's really that simple.  
Laws are not a matter of personal opinion or interpretation or expedience; they exist objectively as practical limits to the (ab)use of power.  
Under law, we are all supposed to be equal and to be subject to the rule of law – otherwise, you have anarchy.  
"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing"

**POSTED BY: AMERICAN | DECEMBER 8, 2006, 2:46 PM 2:46 PM**

I figured someone might be able to do something like this.  
The recent phones they refer to are probably the phones that include the 911 location information systems. I always thought it would be easy to watch the location the phone moved in purely by watching the phone's location tracking satellite info.  
As for kicking on the mike/camera operations – I'm surprised a good hacker couldn't figure out a way to do this. The new phones are heavily computerized and this would just be a programmed activation, a common feature on newer phones. Similar methods are used when the cellular provider activates a new function on your phone remotely. They change it and it pops up as active on your phone. This would rely on remote phone's internal programming being accessable to the cellular provider.  
As for the remote power on function, I was surprised by that. It would explain why the new phones don't have near the battery life of the pre-911 system phones. The phone in essence has to be "on" at a minimal level all the time!

**POSTED BY: WES B | DECEMBER 8, 2006, 9:36 PM 9:36 PM**

I commend you on being brave enough to expose what this republic is about. The American public has turned a cheek against their civil liberties being violated and there rights to privacy trampled upon. I wish we could go back to when our biggest concerns were whether flag burning should be legislated.

**POSTED BY: ELLIE | DECEMBER 10, 2006, 12:14 PM 12:14 PM**

"Wake up and smell the coffee" anybody with a radio scanner can eaves drop any conversation carried by any cellphone. In my previous job, a co-worker listened to "private" conversations with his radio shack scanner, which by the way now it is prohibited.  
Let's face it: the air waves are open and public. don't use the darn thing, if you want privacy.  
we listened to a woman having an affair with a doctor, a kid who was demanding the insurance company and he confided to his friend over the phone that the car was dumped in a canal to claim money. and these conversations were carried like 60 miles away.  
so I'm not surprised at all

**POSTED BY: HOLMES | DECEMBER 11, 2006, 8:48 AM 8:48 AM**

That's cool to hear that the security in the U.S is as good.  
With this improvement in surveillance people with criminal intents can easily be monitored with their proposed actions curbed. Qudos to the FBI.

**POSTED BY: EKOORJO | DECEMBER 11, 2006, 12:12 PM 12:12 PM**

Brothers and sisters: we are so far beyond 1984 that Orwell no longer applies. When I read his book 40 years ago, it left the impression that there would be no escape from the eye of Big Brother, but we made it to the new millinium, and could actually have a private moment if we paid hiking fees to the government for visiting our wilderness areas. A place where there where there was no 60 cycle per second magnetic hum from the wiring in our homes, business's and streets. A place of exquisite quietness that can't be described but only felt.  
That is before the cell phone, which operates on microwaves emmiting from the towers that you see wherever you might travel. You can take your trusty cell phone with you into places like the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, and many people do for security, without even considering the trade off. To be sitting by a mountain lake, and have your only contact with the outside world play a robotic little electronic tune, and disrupt the peace and harmony of the moment is not cool.  
Now George Orwell was speaking of the government keeping track of you through your TV set, which did indeed seem like a scary prospect, but the US has taken it out of the living room, and put it on the person of millions of people on this fragile planet.

**POSTED BY: LINUS | DECEMBER 11, 2006, 1:46 PM 1:46 PM**

In the poll it says that "Terrorists and criminals know how to avoid normal surveillance." Terrorists and criminals are not stupid. They know they how to not draw attention or get caught. For example, terrorists aren't going to wear turbans, they are going to wear western clothes and blend in. This is only going to be an infringement upon our own rights and not stop the acts of terrorism or crime.

POSTED BY: KS | DECEMBER 11, 2006, 5:40 PM 5:40 PM

it should be a crime to eavedrop on someones convsation. what is this world coming to . No privacy.

POSTED BY: TAMIKA HUFF | DECEMBER 12, 2006, 5:59 PM 5:59 PM

How can a person gain some sort of respect toward the Government, if the Government can or may currently be, literally "spying" on us the people if they feel it be necessary or not. I feel there are other means of doing so. That is a total invasion of privacy, you cannot live in this country (in your home, at your job, on the street, in your car, etc.) without being noticed, its terrible. The US Government even has satellites that can see right into your house. What can we as the American people do about this?

POSTED BY: G WATSON | DECEMBER 12, 2006, 9:52 PM 9:52 PM

I am at the moment within the surveillance, "love the FBI!!"  
Not to be disclosed you would be in shock where I am bugged, and how I am bugged at the present moment. It is hilarious, non fictional. You want to make a bet? You will lose!  
May all go to h@ll within the limit of depriving the FBI the rights of all agents to conduct federal affairs, may they listen, and keep on tracking with the "electronic babysitter technology," goodness that is why I am alive today!!  
Thank's for violating my rights[but wait, it is, thank you for saving me!], within the limit of the legal scope!! I stated please bug on, and place more electronic surveillance, babysitter technology into my home, cell phones, home phone, bug it up the walls!! Do not forget the lamp!! Infact place a "James Bond – technology, manner into real life affairs."  
Infact "I ask for coily on my computer everyday now!!" [and yes, it seems far fetched, but you would be in shock to how they respond!!] it is basically ;  
Hello, federal agent!!  
It is good morning FBI Agent!!  
It is good evening FBI Agent!!  
It is now also, "I am awake FBI Agent, and doing well!!" You got my sleep schedule down packed!!  
It is also "FBI AGENT etc.. NEXT!!"  
Now it is get it out there agent, the hell with the rights of the people of the country, please, what do you have to hide from the "BIG BROTHER?"  
Totally true!! And hello FBI!!  
Sincerely to FBI agent/whatever Federal Agents!!  
Seems crazy?  
Seems far fetched?  
Seem un real?  
Totally true!! Do not doubt my words, I have NO privacy, and I never committed a crime!!" within no limits of being in an area of a crime!! But ty!! FBI AGENTS!!

POSTED BY: NA | DECEMBER 14, 2006, 3:43 AM 3:43 AM

Time to find my old, clunky, big analog phone w/o this "feature"!

POSTED BY: BG | DECEMBER 14, 2006, 1:30 PM 1:30 PM

well lets see, what will I do??? I will leave my cell on, I beleive in the security of our nation, I believe that there is a terosist threat to us all.. Now that I said that....Would someone that is listening, please send any of my phone calls ( that have been recorded ) and let them listen to one...It won't surprise them...the cost of living is high, got to work two jobs, to pay heath insurance, gas prices etc; all of it..Oh forget it, I may win the lottery, and have enough to live on for a couple of years...Don't forget the great benefits we get when we retire...The average person, may as well work till the day they die. thats they only way to survive...Our priorities for this nation and people have changed...maybe this election we all ought to look and see what choices we have, and what they have done in the past, not what they promise us for the future...I think we would all be surprised.....

POSTED BY: P. FAILE | DECEMBER 14, 2006, 6:06 PM 6:06 PM

For those of you who say, "I don't care, I'm doing nothin wrong"...I'm sorry, you just don't get it. You're not doing anything wrong today, but the definition of "wrong" may change quite quickly tomorrow. It has so many times in the past, throughout the courses of every empire.  
Have any of you really actually read the PATRIOT Act? Or Executive Order 12656? Or DSEA? Our elected representatives have a tremendous ability to exhibit ambiguity in the challenge of definition.  
This technology IS considerably different than a stationary bug since it places it not only upon a person rather than in a specific location, but also within the proximity of many persons who have no involvement, other than superficial, with the suspect at all. How does this protect the innocent?  
It amazes me that our elected representatives have us deliberating so passionately over what the Bill of Rights once defined very clearly.  
I don't want legislation created to protect me and my family, I will take care of that, and if I can't, then so be it. What I want is for our situation to return as it was on September 10, 2001 and I will roll the dice and take my chances.

POSTED BY: STEVE | DECEMBER 15, 2006, 3:15 AM 3:15 AM

Onstar, the new RFID and facial mapping used for the new toll roads being built, the ID of this computer connection I am using, phone taps, email taps, My Space traps, it's all crap to protect your well being. I've become comfortably numb...

POSTED BY: MARKUS DEMARKUS | DECEMBER 17, 2006, 12:56 AM 12:56 AM

Any radio transceiver (a cell phone is a transceiver with a phone patch) will use more power in "transmit" than in "receive", therefore will useup battery capacity faster when used for transmitting conversations that the FBI is listening

to. Pardon my objection, but I'd rather not have my cell phone rendered powerless without my even knowing about it.

**POSTED BY: JIM WARE | DECEMBER 18, 2006, 11:18 AM 11:18 AM**

Cell phone insurance companies all accross American are allowing cell phones to be stolen each day and building in the cost to the insurance. I work for a company that insures cell phones. In the last 6 weeks, I have stopped over 150 cells phones from being stolen. How many roadside bombs have been stopped? None probably, but I am trying. allowing them to be stolen is ridiculous. This can be stopped if anyone tried to do it. I could do it. But, big business does not care. It is the cost of doing business. Ever wonder why your cell phone service costs so much? Stop wondering, it is because it is easier to screw you than it is to stop theft.

**POSTED BY: JEFF | DECEMBER 19, 2006, 2:15 AM 2:15 AM**

then why didn't they listen to the lost mountain climbers on Mt. Hood?

**POSTED BY: BWANNADAVID | DECEMBER 22, 2006, 11:03 AM 11:03 AM**

"I just shouldn't buy the phone?" Last I checked, I didn't buy a cell phone in order to have this functionality. This functionality isn't just a function of my phone, it's a function of deals that security agencies make with phone manufacturers and OS developers. Technology is what we build and how we build it, not just a given that falls from the sky. My phone contract does not disclose this functionality in any shape or form, so I'm not "complicit" in my own bugging by just signing the contract. Please.

**POSTED BY: V | DECEMBER 26, 2006, 1:06 AM 1:06 AM**

Okay so now that we know it is possible, the next thing to post is how exactly it is done. Disclose the full details and ways to disable or circumvent this capability. anything done can be undone. Perhaps this is a market, to sell uncompromised phone OSes and/or hardware components. Give us the means to our freedom not just knowledge that we are slaves.

**POSTED BY: MAX G FARADAY | DECEMBER 29, 2006, 2:05 PM 2:05 PM**

Why is anyone surprised by this? I have known this is possible for a long time. It is why I will not own a cell phone. And memo to those who are screaming about your "right to privacy". You are using a public network to utilise devices such as Telephones (both landline and cell). The keyword is PUBLIC, folks. If you are so worried about this then you should not use any public networks. No telephone, no internet, no cable/sat TV. The courts long ago decided that you have no assumption to privacy when utilizing a public network. Just like they have stated that you have no "right to privacy" when using your employers phone or computer.

**POSTED BY: K. WALSH | DECEMBER 30, 2006, 6:01 AM 6:01 AM**

This talk of eavesdropping has been happening in my life for some years now. Try and get help about it but hard to tell whether anyone cares or believes it – and what can be done anyways? I tried the police but they didn't listen. I tried the FBI tip line but to date no one has showed up to question me. They like to let you know it is being done by making obvious references to personal conversations you've had at home, in your car, office, or wherever.

**POSTED BY: FRED O | DECEMBER 30, 2006, 8:56 AM 8:56 AM**

I am an American Citizen, I have rights. Get this un-constitutional law out of our country, and back to Nazi Germany where it belongs. This is a direct breach of both our 4th Amendment rights, and FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act). "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."  
-Benjamin Franklin

**POSTED BY: DEVILS | DECEMBER 30, 2006, 4:36 PM 4:36 PM**

What bothers me is not that the government listens in on the Genovese crime family with a warrant. What bothers me is that the government has, in collaboration with the phone industry, placed a bug – not just a tappable phone, but a bug – into each of our pockets. Yes, this bug is kept 'off' most of the time, but it is still a bug planted into my pocket. How would the proponents of this scheme feel if it turned out that the government planted bugs into all of our TVs, light bulbs, and mattresses? Of course, these bugs too would be kept 'off' without a warrant. Would you keep this bug in your mattress, or would you rip it out?

**POSTED BY: WLADO | DECEMBER 30, 2006, 7:45 PM 7:45 PM**

If only Gore got elected in 2000, none of this war, terrorism, and civil liberties bullshit scare would've happened.

**POSTED BY: JOHN F. | DECEMBER 30, 2006, 8:29 PM 8:29 PM**

"If you're not doing anything wrong, then you should have no worries about being bugged!"  
I love comments like this. They no longer need a warrant to tap your phone, they can arrest and deny your right to habeas corpus. What happens when they decide the websites you view are "wrong" or the books you read are "wrong"?

POSTED BY: ANDREW | DECEMBER 31, 2006, 10:43 AM 10:43 AM

Its not that we actually have freedom here, We are in the 1984 scenario and have been for years.  
The simple fact is this: The American illusion of freedom is better than the other countries illusions of freedom. So we stay and enjoy the illusion while we can. If i had the money, no, I wouldnt live in the US. but where would I go? There arent many places that have the freedoms (remember, still illusions) that we do.  
Its about choosing the lesser evil, because theres nothing good left.

POSTED BY: AN AMERICAN SOLDIER | JANUARY 1, 2007, 3:19 PM 3:19 PM

The point isn't whether they can do it or not, the point is whether they should be able to or not. The "if I'm not doing anything wrong it doesn't matter" spiel doesn't hold any weight because the argument never gets that far. No one should be able to listen in on my phone calls. That's just an ethical determination we've made as a nation regarding personal space. The government has been making everyone afraid so they won't fight back when their rights as humans are taken from them. Make people afraid is the same as creating a country full of sheep.

POSTED BY: JOHN | JANUARY 1, 2007, 11:58 PM 11:58 PM

Hey, listen don't be surprised I'll give you something else you might not know. Now when you buy a Dvd or something at the store examine the entire thing (the case) and see if you can find a white sticker, peel it off on the back side of it is a tracking device.

POSTED BY: MAX | JANUARY 2, 2007, 3:26 AM 3:26 AM

We are now the Evil Empire in the world.

POSTED BY: PHIL | JANUARY 2, 2007, 3:48 PM 3:48 PM

Who pay the bill?? the user??

POSTED BY: FTS | JANUARY 3, 2007, 8:18 AM 8:18 AM

EASY PEOPLE!!!  
"A BON CHAT, BON RAT!!!"  
Remember the tinfoil people!!!  
Well, just do as they do.  
Wrap your electronic device in tinfoil and PRESTO!!! no transmission!!! Same thing with your wireless router, just use cables  
and wrap your antennas...etc...etc...  
Every spying measure have its countermeasure.

POSTED BY: HENRY PERCY | JANUARY 3, 2007, 1:42 PM 1:42 PM

Do you REALLY believe the FBI has nothing better to do than listen to your mundane daily conversation or you "making out with your girlfriend"? Get a clue. Unless you're a member of a crime family or terrorist group or any other type of criminal, there is no probable cause for a warrant.  
You live in a make-believe world if you think you can have total freedom and total security. The two are mutually exclusive.

POSTED BY: TONY | JANUARY 3, 2007, 2:37 PM 2:37 PM

[quote]peel it off on the back side of it is a tracking device.[/quote]  
Yep! As I just said, YOU need to wrap YOUR head in tinfoil, your emanations are deleterious!!!!  
It's a tracking device to deter thieves like you, you idiot!!!  
They demagnetize it at the cashier  
or it will trigger the alarm as you try to steal it...here, I uncovered the big security secret!!!

POSTED BY: HENRY PERCY | JANUARY 3, 2007, 4:19 PM 4:19 PM

As one that has been raided and harassed by the FBI and then proven "clean"!! I can tell you that the FBI is arrogant, dangerous and not all that smart. The idea that we are protected by the process of a judge signing off on a warrant is a joke - judges sign what ever the FBI puts in front of them. They misinterpreted an email from someone they were investigating to my wife and it cost us \$10,000 and a year of hell. They are fascist and have no common sense. I am looking into filing civil charges.  
SW

POSTED BY: STEVE WEST | JANUARY 3, 2007, 11:04 PM 11:04 PM

The protection meant to be provided by warrants no longer exists. They snoop they find, they make a phone call and get an instant warrant in 5 min to find what they already found. They do it all the time. They do not have to prepare detailed specific case evidence to a judge and present it another day to maybe get a warrant, they get one in 5 minutes when they find something they want to use.

POSTED BY: ZZ | JANUARY 5, 2007, 3:28 AM 3:28 AM

So, if there is a leak in the Witness Protection agency, and the guy who is the leak wants to find the person(s), he can activate the cellphone?...

The FBI, just like cops and CIA agents, have people who get fired for abusing things. Can you imagine a possessive agent using this on his ex-girlfriend? Using it to get credit card numbers and other sensitive info? What to keep hackers from finding a way to do this?

If you make jokes about terrorists and such, do you get RED FLAG and a file at the FBI office?

There are sites that tell you how to remove the EDR from your car; I await one for this. I have nothing to hide, but as said in the TV series, "The Prisoner", "...my life is my own."

So I guess this means other devices, like OnStar, can do this as well.....

POSTED BY: JUSTIN BOGGAN | JANUARY 6, 2007, 1:22 AM 1:22 AM

This is absolutely absurd I can't believe that they are doing this to our country... every one is allowed privacy... George.W.Bush is a complete idiot.. he doesn't even realize what he is doing to this country.. this is not America, this is a country of chaos and total disregard for what matters... I can't stand the fact that he is turning this entire country into a police state. it is absolutely ridiculous. what we need is peace and love.. not this war crap!!!!

POSTED BY: ANONYMOUS | JANUARY 8, 2007, 3:54 AM 3:54 AM

Is aluminum foil the same as tinfoil? Or does aluminum foil make a better antenna?

POSTED BY: JR | JANUARY 8, 2007, 11:12 AM 11:12 AM

Should we not just report to the police at the end of every day and erase the need for this crap. WE could call in and our location would be automatically registered, then we could report our conversations and our bad thoughts especially any sexually driven desires we have during the day and actions not caught on our cell phone. We could also offer to trade in our old phones for photo ones.

We could also volunteer to buy the listening stuff so that we too could listen to our neighbours and report the bad things they do and say. (I know they are doing it I just don't have the proof yet) We could maybe watch the president fall off the couch while eating peanuts also.

POSTED BY: ANDY | JANUARY 8, 2007, 11:06 PM 11:06 PM

Please – everyone take a chill pill. Courts have ruled for decades that law enforcement, when properly justified with a search warrant, can 'wire tap' your phone or 'bug' your home or office. So now they plant the bug by turning on the mic in your cell. Or your portable. Or desktop. And the difference is ???

If you're not into anything seriously illegal you have nothing to fear.

POSTED BY: DAVE | JANUARY 9, 2007, 7:03 PM 7:03 PM

Is it possible if I do nothing wrong and I believe that my cell phone being bugged ?? Is it possible if anyone tap my cell just because they want to know what do I say and who do I talk with???

POSTED BY: TINA | JANUARY 11, 2007, 4:27 PM 4:27 PM

WE ALL NEED TO KNOW FOR SURE WHICH MOBILE/CELLULAR AND WHICH MODELS HAS THIS FEATURE.

POSTED BY: AYOUB | JANUARY 12, 2007, 2:42 AM 2:42 AM

If you believe the FBI, et al, only does this within the law you probably believe in the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus too

POSTED BY: BYTE\_ME | JANUARY 12, 2007, 12:21 PM 12:21 PM

Everything you read to yourself causes your vocal cords to move.

Much of what you think about causes your vocal cords to move. How low of a range can be listened to? Can they listen to thoughts? If your vocal cords move sound is emitted right? Can that sound be detected? Makes one curious!!

POSTED BY: HELLOO!! | JANUARY 24, 2007, 12:18 AM 12:18 AM

Byte\_me, I doubt it, since cell phone microphones aren't that good. They typically wouldn't be able to hear a sound of such a low frequency. Right now, at least. Who knows what the future holds?

POSTED BY: ANONYMOUS EXPERT | JANUARY 25, 2007, 8:27 AM 8:27 AM

Those among us that spend their time worrying about barcodes on one's wrist and micro-chip tracking are a day late and a few dollars short. The DAY you strapped on a cell phone was your demise. Yeah, bit-ch about the Patriot Act..."We must not sell our freedoms!" What a joke...they've already been sold to Verizon.

POSTED BY: PYGMON | JANUARY 27, 2007, 10:29 PM 10:29 PM

Well this is scary if this is true i don't think im going to be bringing my cellphone with me as much(or I'll remove the

battery)

This does sound a lot like 1984 and for those who point to the "With probably clause and a court hearing" in order to listen in. Look at the patriot act it allowed spying on citizens so long as they were thought to be a terrorist (no court hearing needed) it has been repealed but if it gets passed again we could have our conversations listened to without being able to do anything, (personally i would make a cellphone jamer if i wanted security when im talking)

**POSTED BY: G-UNIT | JANUARY 31, 2007, 8:05 PM 8:05 PM**

i think everyone who assumes that the FBI, or any government entity does everything legally is stupid. people who say that they cannot do it without a warrant are stupid. you assume that the government is willing to process every and all law breaker. well i have some information for you. the government protects its own. on the oglala native american reservation, starting in the 1970s, the FBI came in with full attack gear and bombed and tear gassed and shot up dozens of unarmed native americans. then, when the armed native americans came over and attacked the FBI, the FBI declared the native americans with guns as "terrorists." the definition of terrorists changes with each new regime of power in the United States. the fact that all these laws and infringements upon our freedom are done to protect us from a disputable word, well, thats just scary. welcome to Orwell's world. Big brother is here

**POSTED BY: R. KNIGHT | MARCH 8, 2007, 10:22 PM 10:22 PM**

There should be cameras in everyones home. FBI watches you eat, shower, dress, getting naked, having sex, and etc. What can you do? We can protest all we want, its not gonna change anything

**POSTED BY: LFGROUP | MARCH 9, 2007, 2:14 AM 2:14 AM**

I am embarrassed to be an American. This regime exploits the environment, the countries of the world and its own people to satisfy a need for power through deception. Our country was born by individuals seeking to escape abusive governments. How long until Americans begin to seek asylum in other countries?

**POSTED BY: MARK B | MARCH 9, 2007, 10:17 AM 10:17 AM**

any audio speaker anywhere can be quickly rewired to become a microphone. likewise a mic cxan be quickly rewired to be used as a speaker.so i feel that it's also no effort to somehow,using technical means,turn someone's cell phone into a spy mic with them knowing it.using of course today's awesome technology. .which also makes me believe that whether i'm being spied on all the time or not,the capability to do so is certainly exists and wouldn't take much effort on the parts of the people who have the said technology. kinda scary..what if two people are talking about something personal that happened in their past that might have been illegal at the time but have since come to terms with and have ceased doing(but could still be held accountable if the authorities were aware of the situation. .counselors and pcychiatrists deal with patients many times who fall into this catagory. the reason i said all that in that particulaer manner is that i'm trying to point out that a government that spies on it's people is shameful. for more reasons than one.while i still believe that america is the best place to live,at the sam time,it's also a shame that it's the best place to live considering how screwed up it's become over time.

**POSTED BY: DJTEEL | MARCH 11, 2007, 3:43 AM 3:43 AM**

Yah, what if they are listening in on your phone conversatons and acting on everything you say.Then sending devious people to affect you and your life? Plus pushing you into rotten situations then pointing the finger at you like everthing is you fault.

**POSTED BY: KELLY BELL | MARCH 17, 2007, 10:54 PM 10:54 PM**

This story is absolutely silly. It isnt possible to activate a cell phone remotely and to have it transmit a speech conversation without the users knowledge. I have worked in radio networks for years and i can tell you there is absolutely no truth in it.

Plus it is the simplest bug in the world to detect, just leave the phone on top of a hifi speaker when you start your bad guy conversation. The FBI activate the roaving bug, the phone starts signalling, the speaker starts going "dat dat dat dt dtdtdtdt dat dat dtdtdtdt" and the bad guys stop talking. I cant believe the naivety of some of the posters here. Move to China/Russia...? Big Brother. Absurd.

**POSTED BY: BUNSTER | MARCH 22, 2007, 11:28 AM 11:28 AM**

This is common in Colombia. The Colombian authorities have intercepted some cell phone models, and they have modified its software to use the phone as a mic. But, it is easy to avoid this interception. It is just necessary to take off the battery when the user needs some privacy..

**POSTED BY: REYES | MARCH 24, 2007, 10:14 AM 10:14 AM**

Any transmitter can become a receiver and vice versa i.e., cell phones, landline phones, internet and especially TV's. But unless sophisticated, there has to be a line of sight between the receiving device and transmitting device. The American public needs to wake up, it's not a matter of "if your not doing anything wrong...", it's a constitutional right to be secure in our persons, houses, papers and effects. Not sure about other cell phone provider agreements but nowhere in my agreement does it state, "your cell phone may be modified to become listening/tracking device by any government agency.

**POSTED BY: SUZIEQ | MARCH 28, 2007, 3:06 AM 3:06 AM**

I feel this is something that should be known, because it can and is often abused.

What it is and what it isn't.

It is not "tapping phone calls"

It is not a "outgoing call", so detecting the RF transmissions by placing the phone near a speaker will not alert you to being bugged.

It is not "built in" the phone from the factory, It is a modification to the firmware in the phone, uploaded from the central network.

Because of this it is customized to the phone make and model.

On "most" phones it does not work when the phone is powered off. However on nearly all current phones when the phone is in "standby" mode it can bug you.

HOW IT WORKS

Modern cellphones are powerful computing devices. Your phone has a feature on it you most likely never use, the voice recorder. Well the bug uses a modified routine based on that, the codec used for the voice recorder is far higher bit rate than the "bug" application. That codec is based on the speex codec at only 2.15 Kbit / second. There are two banks of memory on cell phones, application / OS memory, and user data. Using only 1MB of application space(so as to not show up when you look at memory usage) just over 1 hour is recorded. Using the new highspeed data services that 1 MB file can be uploaded and listened to.

SO wrapping your phone in foil when you are conducting "business" will do you no good.

As for listening to phone calls... EVERY CALL IS LISTENED TO IN THE USA.

Using advanced speech and word recognition software, calls are monitored and "tagged" for review by personnel. While there are hundreds of millions of telephones on average less than 15 million are in use at any time. With data center clusters placed throughout the country nearly all calls are monitored.

POSTED BY: NSATECH | APRIL 16, 2007, 1:43 AM 1:43 AM

i wish they bugged my husbands phone, they should have known when my husband taken us to overseas... and wanted to keep us there so we would not come back to usa with my children.....i would not go through hell during the time we stayed there thinking how i could live in a strange county with my children witha strange language and culture...

POSTED BY: I WISH IT HAPPENED TO ME | MAY 14, 2007, 2:27 AM 2:27 AM

It's not just the FBI. We have a local techie kid who is terrorizing "the cute girl" with this method. Death threats, telling her mom what she's doing in the kitchen. The whole thing.

POSTED BY: COLLEEN | JULY 15, 2007, 7:39 PM 7:39 PM

I am a law-abiding, tax-paying American who was born in this country and would even have gladly served in the military if my health had not deteriorated fairly early in my life (torn ACL in both knees). To say I'm patriotic would be an understatement, as up until last year I would have been willing to lay down my life for the US if it ever came to that. Yup, my value system until last year consisted of serving Country first, family second, and myself third if it ever came to a mutually exclusive situation where I might need to choose for the good of one over the other.

How surprised do you think I was to get a phone call from the fbi last year telling me they were tired of spending resources to follow me around and surveil me and to please just come in and talk to them!? They called me at work, and you don't need more than a sixth grade education to understand how "jubilant" my employer was about the fact that the FBI was "interested" in me. I separated from my employer just last Friday [July 13] – basically I hung on as long as I could, but thanks to the fear, uncertainty, and doubt sown by the FBI my employer has really wanted to get rid of me since last year.

POSTED BY: BEN BIRD | JULY 16, 2007, 2:48 PM 2:48 PM

PS nothing derogatory or disparaging meant against my former employer by my above remarks; I would expect any reasonable person or company to have acted similarly in the current environment where there is no longer any mechanism to provide a check or balance to the unfettered power of the current police state in the US.

POSTED BY: BEN BIRD | JULY 16, 2007, 3:24 PM 3:24 PM

Unfortunately this country has gone through many situations similar to this one whether it was the Salem witch trials or the McCarthy era. There will always be unscrupulous politicians who will frighten people with some sort of "enemy" just so they can abuse their authority. The fact that we allow this sort of thing to happen time after time makes me wonder if we're just gluttons for punishment.

One thing I've noticed about all of these situations is that being guiltless or having nothing to hide does not put you above being harassed or abused as a lot of people in these situations have found. Many innocent people have been rounded up and tortured in this so-called war on terrorism that were totally innocent of any wrongdoing. Personally a lot of the people that embrace this sort of bizarre treatment leave a lot to be desired.

Think about a lot of the information that is being collected on you. Does anyone really need to have access to that much information? And what do you know about the people that have all this information? Personally I find all of this to be really creepy. I don't know how the government has time to track down international terrorists when they're too busy keeping tabs on us, do you?

POSTED BY: ANGELA | AUGUST 22, 2007, 7:30 PM 7:30 PM

Whats the difference between listening to criminals at a stake out while hiding somewhere and listening through a cell phone? How is one to collect evidence if at some point some spying is not used? What is the big deal that this technology can be used now? Ok so it's easier to spy – so what? That's good in good hands and bad in bad hands.

What's new? Government will never be perfect but hey – how many people here would NOT use this technology if it was available to them when they had strong reasons to suspect their spouse was having an affair, but they just didn't know? How different is this than the really "old" days when you just sort of walked to a location you knew your spouse would be and sort of looked to see if they were with another lover? Both are "spying" – I think it's human nature to protect ourselves and to use whatever method we have in order to do it. Is it wrong? Maybe – sometimes – is it justified? I think yes, sometimes it is, in both cases. For both terrorism and infidelity. How different is that than asking your neighbor or friend to look out for you / "watch" your spouse for you? Hey, if you're gonna do something, be prepared to be caught.



And please tell me, what ARE "ethical" means of catching criminals, terrorists, etc? When you see them commit the crime alone? Only when they come to confess? No? We need to be more aggressive? What, then, shall we do that 100% protects everyone's privacy rights? It's an issue with these two things naturally at odds, period.

POSTED BY: LEE | AUGUST 29, 2007, 2:05 AM 2:05 AM

I just lost my counseling job in a prison due to the illicit use of listening devices in our offices. We were on camera and being listened to for 40 hours a week, and information gained was used against staff (Boundary issues go figure!) and to manipulate the inmate population. Absolutely disgusting, I would like to move to the hill country and rough it before the police state takes over where I live, too. People will be sorry when this happens to them- this is a crime, in my opinion.

POSTED BY: STEVE | SEPTEMBER 30, 2007, 10:56 AM 10:56 AM

This ability to 'tap' into your privacy is an extension of the stripping of your civil liberties. Hear me out. Here is the set-up. The ruling faction — in this case the government — is cooperating with corporations that have no allegiance to America. These corporations are global and are not restrained by or loyal to geographical boundaries. You may have noticed that the 'powers that be' who are supposed to be champions of the American people and the American ideals have changed team colors. There isn't anyone carrying that flag anymore. They carry the flag of Corporations and use patriotism to get citizen 'buy-in'. I need only to point to the inordinate and flagrant increase in out-sourcing (agriculture and manufacturing), the unbelievable influx of immigrants (in spite of 9/11) and the super highway they want to approve that runs from South America up through the US to Canada...to name a few. It is not even logical to allow these decisions to pass after American vulnerability has been so painfully demonstrated. No one seems to be concerned with protecting Americans' liberties and rights except us — the American citizens.

Folks, the days of being able to blindly trust those who lead us unfortunately is ebbing. If you get past the nauseating feeling in your stomach, you will see the truth for what it is. I AM a proud American. I LOVE this country and all that it stands for. I HONOR those who have served to protect her such as my father who served in WWII and my brother who served in Vietnam and as I do those who are serving their country now. They did (and do) what they did and are doing because they are patriots and want to serve the country that provides them and their families rights, liberties and the freedom to pursue happiness.

My concern is that times and loyalties have changed in the highest offices of our country. So when I read "The FBI can access cell phones and modify them remotely without ever having to physically handle them," and "Any recently manufactured cell phone has a built-in tracking device, which can allow eavesdroppers to pinpoint someone's location to within just a few feet," I am sad to say I am alarmed. Not because the federal government is utilizing new technology to track criminals, but because I cannot trust the government to limit their power and usage to only those incidents that warrant it.

POSTED BY: JANE CITIZEN | OCTOBER 2, 2007, 4:36 PM 4:36 PM

(the rest of the post)

Since 9/11 and the first issue of the patriot act, our inalienable rights have been slowly eroded. They (high up and influential officials of our government) exploited the most horrific incident ever to occur on American soil and used it to wipe out civil liberties and rights overnight...rights that had taken decades to put into place. The cell phone espionage option is another extrapolation of that power slipped in under the auspices of a case against organized crime. Again, these rulings and laws are introduced and passed to the public in a situation where the critical mass of Americans will agree to it. For instance, of course we all agree that organized crime needs to be controlled and eliminated. From this point of collective agreement and passion for a solution, we agree off-handedly to allow our rights to be invaded upon, assuming this tactic will never be used against the 'law-abiding' citizenry.

All I am saying is be wary. Look at the laws and measures being passed and ask yourself "How would this new law or measure play out if we truly were to have a militaristic or police-state government? Would my rights as a law-abiding citizen still be protected?" If the answer is 'no', you need to consider that. Yes, in an ideal world our leaders are trustworthy and only have the American citizens' well-being at heart. But I see evidence accumulating that causes me to question whether this world we have built through blood, sweat and tears in America is so 'ideal' anymore. Protect your liberties. It took a long time to secure them — blood, sweat and tears — and have been slowly stolen away. Be wary, fellow citizens.

My 81-year old Christian mother and I were on very opposite sides of this topic. She trusted her leaders and would hear nothing of the tales of betrayal I was pointing out to her until I gave her an example of my fear. She is a firm proponent of the Pro-Life movement. "I too am a proponent of life!" I exclaimed. The question is not "should we abort unborn babies?" The question is do I want my government dictating what I can do with my body? I framed it this way for her; based on your Christian values you support the government enforcing pro-life legislation and telling you what you can and cannot do with your body. So today, you happen to agree with the government's position. But what if tomorrow the government says every citizen must have an RFID (radio frequency identification tag) implanted in their wrist as some new security measure? "I would not want to do that", she replies with a confused and alarmed look on her face. "But mother, I said, you have no choice now, because when it suited your moral position, you gave the government the right to make these decisions about your body." Getting these rights back could take decades and are not guaranteed.

POSTED BY: JANE CITIZEN | OCTOBER 2, 2007, 5:34 PM 5:34 PM

(final thought)

Protect your rights and weigh the protection of those rights against that problem that they are trying to solve by taking that right away. Does it make sense? Have they taken all the other obvious measures?

I come back around to national security. It takes me 2 hours to get through security at the airport in order to protect the American citizens against terrorist attacks. I am ok with that. But I have to ask myself why then is immigration is up at alarming rates in spite of the evidence suggesting the immigration system is fallible and unable to sustain the current immigration activity? Why are they are opening a super highway which requires additional security measures even though we can't currently secure the border as it stands? And why are they encouraging the weakening of the American infrastructure and America's ability to sustain ourselves by outsourcing manufacturing and agriculture to other countries? It just doesn't add up and that, my friends, and that is when I worry about the motivation and agenda behind the laws being passed and revisions to our constitution. Protect your rights now before we inadvertently give up our right to protest and protect ourselves (see the first and second amendment). In fact, this is a good time to read the US Constitution. Decide what you are willing to part with. Do a little research and understand what type of government control the forefathers had experienced that led them to choose these particular articles and amendments. By eroding these rights you are opening the door to the very government controls they were getting out from under. Pay attention. Think. Take action. You may not agree with me, fortunately we have the right to disagree and form and express our own



number (without ringing the cell phone) and bingo, the microphone is in place. The only way an unsuspecting holder would know his phone was being hijacked was IF HE WERE TO BE LOOKING AT HIS CELL PHONE SCREEN WHILE TO BASE CELLPHONE AND SOFTWARE WERE ACTUALLY CONNECING TO HIS CELL PHONE.... BUT THAT HAPPENS IN A MATTER OF 3 SECONDS.... Wow.... If you happen to be incognito and want super privacy, I suggest you find a geek that can tweak your phone to add a switch YOU control to activate the battery's ON/OFF... God bless ALL your americans... and SCREW BIG BROTHER!

POSTED BY: J. NORMAN LEAR | MARCH 31, 2008, 10:26 PM 10:26 PM

Its not just the fbi that can do this. A lot of guys that were making the big bucks in the dot come boom now make this kind of software in their free time. I recently feel victim to some software installed on my phone. Then whenever a friend called from their cell phone they'd get the bug installed on their phone. The person obtained enough info on me via my "roving bug" to get keys made to my house come in play around, steal my degree that was hanging on my wall & call my job with recorded conversations about fellow coworkers, & replay sounds of me having sex with my g/f. In the end I ended up selling everything, & moving over 900 miles away. Only to discover my work references are now ruined & I cant work in the laboratory because of some ##### some prankster installed on my phone!

POSTED BY: WILLIS | MAY 3, 2008, 1:15 AM 1:15 AM

Let us think about this for a minute. Your family immigrated to America from a Middle Eastern country dreaming of free rights in this glorious land. They raise 3 daughters and 3 sons. All have at least a masters degree and several are small business owners that stimulate the economy with employing personnel and paying taxes, and maybe corny, but love this country because of the people and freedom. They get overseas calls from Germany, Greece, England, Jordan, and Bethlelem, where they originated. Now, since they are Palestinians, they have relatives who live everywhere in the world rather than be stressed out living in the West Bank. So all their family spread out in the world are rarely called by them, too embarased to tell them, I don't want trouble in America because every race and religion has deranged people who use religion to justify terror-type actions and blame America for everything.

Then, comes September 11th. You cry as you watch on TV the buildings burn. But, something also happens, Three men beside you start talking about crazy Arabs who have an evil religion. You feel deeply hurt by the country you love but are angrier at the terrorists who are deranged cowards who mistakenly think God or Allah, will reward them for this unjustified brutality. You call in to a radio talk show because what you love about Americans is that they are willing to listen.

The family knew very few Arabs growing up. Also, the father sent them to Church because he grew up with Christian and Muslims but mainly Christian (remember Bethlelem).

Know, the 2 sides of the family, mother and father's side, are very fair-skinned with green, blue, and green eyes. No one can tell their nationality.

POSTED BY: DALIA HARRAR | JUNE 23, 2008, 8:59 PM 8:59 PM

I know that the FBI is allow to listen to the criminal people but it is allow for Private investigator or anyone to do so?

POSTED BY: HTD17 | JULY 1, 2008, 1:17 PM 1:17 PM

I'm somewhat intrigued by this. I wonder if this is the kind of thing that Bob Woodward has been talking about in recent interviews as being our most recent top secret big advantage in pinpointing the bad guys in Iraq...

POSTED BY: CG | SEPTEMBER 13, 2008, 2:19 PM 2:19 PM

All you people who say this is no different than normal surveillance techniques are just wrong. The reality is that this kind of backdoor could be exploited by anyone who figures out how it works, and I guarantee you that plenty of people are sitting around analyzing cell phone firmware code as we speak. Also, don't forget that this could be used to listen in on ANYONE in the vicinity. Say they are in a public place like a restaurant or subway station? This method could be used to pick up anyone talking in the vicinity. How long before they start bugging my cell to listen in on the person next to me who doesn't even have a cell phone or who is taking out the battery to avoid this? This is America, I love this country and I will not let these Neocon freaks turn it into Oceania!

POSTED BY: DOKTORJ | OCTOBER 13, 2008, 11:51 PM 11:51 PM

good theory accept for the fact that those same exact words were in the movie eagle eye.

POSTED BY: ASHLEE | OCTOBER 21, 2008, 4:54 PM 4:54 PM

Just learn to speak a foreign language if you're a criminal. No American speaks a second language therefore the FBI won't understand you, hahaha.

POSTED BY: ALLMIGHTY | OCTOBER 30, 2008, 3:49 PM 3:49 PM

the FBI still shouldnt be able to listen to what your saying it doesnt matter and i also heard that they can do this with tvs i heard they can see you instead of just hear you thats messed up you know

POSTED BY: JOHN | NOVEMBER 18, 2008, 10:24 PM 10:24 PM

This is only partially true. If your cell phone is turned off like they require you to do on a plane than this is impossible. In order for the cell phone to receive a command from a cell network (the only network the cell is programmed to work on, ex, att, verizon, tmobile, etc) the cell phone needs to be powered on and registered with the network. If its not registered then it cant be contacted because no one knows where to send the commands and if its off then its not processing data

recieved from the antenna. But lets say you have a flip phone and you close the cover, then this is totally possible considering the phone programing will allow the commands to change settings. I would have to say 99% of phones wont and no the FBI cant over ride the programing wirelessly because they cant access the program files through the cell connection. on the other hand 100% of phones can be reprogramed using a direct connection such as USB or serial connections. So listening through a cell phone is possible but not without actually having the phone in hand to reprogram it. so as long as you bought your cell from a provider (because they wont put this ability onto your phone because it is agensnt the user end agreement of the major cell companies says they cant) and no one has stolen your phone then your fine. and powering the phone down leaves you just as safe as taking the battery out.

POSTED BY: JOE PAYTON | FEBRUARY 12, 2009, 2:16 PM 2:16 PM

The government is not using this sophisticated technology to listen in on your everyday, boring life (unless you are a terrorist or member of the mafia or likewise, then your everyday life is exactly what the are listening to). They don't care about what you as a law abiding citizen are doing that might not be so moral. They are using this is protect you from the big bad boogie men that could pose a serious threat to society. And they are doing this all with PERMISSION in the form of a warrant. They get warrants for traditional "bugging devices" this is just a safer, more reliable method. These mobsters just weren't as smart as the Jihadists, they know to take the battery out or have stopped using them all together.

POSTED BY: STEPHANIE | MARCH 8, 2009, 8:33 PM 8:33 PM

It isn't the GOVT you have to fear

POSTED BY: KENT | MAY 5, 2009, 8:21 PM 8:21 PM

Good news! Thank you!

POSTED BY: GEY | JUNE 25, 2009, 1:56 PM 1:56 PM

People realize that you still need a warrant to do this kind of stuff, right? It's not different then a regular wiretap, just done in a different manner. As a member of the US intelligence community, I can say with certainty that we quite frankly aren't interested in what you have to say about your girlfriend. There aren't enough of us and there are too many of you all to be able to monitor every phone conversation. We don't live in a dictatorship, the world isn't turn Orwellian/1984-esque, we have legal defenses against surveillance of anyone with no impunity. We can't just do anything we want, we have legal guidelines and channels that are very strict towards this kind of surveillance.

POSTED BY: MICHAEL | JANUARY 18, 2010, 1:27 AM 1:27 AM

They're more than welcome to listen to mine any time. Though, it would be a lot like watching fishing...  
\*snore\*

POSTED BY: ME | FEBRUARY 9, 2010, 1:05 PM 1:05 PM

So, the phone isn't really off. It's physically impossible to run devices without current unless it's in the mechanical domain. If any of this is true it means the phone is in a sleep state, plus the cellphone company's phone is either reverse engineered, schematics were stolen, or the cellphone company was working with them.

POSTED BY: FREAKZ0ID | MARCH 18, 2010, 9:46 PM 9:46 PM

What i don't understood is actually how you're not actually much more well-liked than you might be now. You're so intelligent. You realize thus considerably relating to this subject, made me personally consider it from so many varied angles. Its like men and women aren't fascinated unless it is one thing to accomplish with Lady gaga! Your own stuffs nice. Always maintain it up!

POSTED BY: PSY | SEPTEMBER 3, 2011, 9:08 AM 9:08 AM

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